Rs.11,15,326.99 and that of the corresponding period of April-June 2007 was Rs.8,97,816.52. Figures for the month of June 2009, June 2008 and June 2007 were Rs. 5,77,056.718 crores, Rs. 4,13,551.34 crores and Rs. 2,82,550.35 crores respectively.

(c) In view of the answer to part (a) above, there is no case for banning futures (speculation) trading in essential commodities.

Price-rise of pulses and edible oils

3298. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a significant increase in the prices of edible oils and pulses in the country and in the international market during the period May-November, 2009;

(b) if so, the average prices of different edible oils in the country and in the international market during the said period;

(c) whether Government has taken any action to meet these price differences in the country and in the international market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The domestic and international prices of edible oils have been stable during the last six months, whereas, prices of most of the pulses in the domestic and in the international market have increased during May-November 2009. The details of monthly average prices of edible oils in the country and in the international market during the period May-November, 2009 is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) The Government have taken the following actions to contain the prices of edible oils:

(i) The custom duties on crude and refined edible oils have been reduced to nil and 7.5% respectively since 01.04.2008. It has been decided that this duty structure would be continued till 30.9.2010.

(ii) The Government have banned export of all major edible oils from the country since 17.3.2008 upto 30.9.2010.

(iii) The Government have launched a Scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute upto 10 lakh tons of edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs.15/- kg. which was enhanced to Rs.25/- kg. from January, 2009 to March, 2009. The Scheme is believed to have helped to soften the prices of edible oils in domestic market as per feed back received from State Governments. The Scheme has been continued in the current year also with a subsidy of Rs.15/- per kg. to import upto 10 lakh tons of oils till 31.03.2010. So far, nine State Governments/UTs had intimated their requirements of edible oils, have been allocated edible oil under the Scheme. As on 11.12.2009, 106500 tons of edible oil has been contracted for import under the Scheme.

Statement

Details of edible oils in the domestic market and international market

The monthly average prices of edible oils in the country and in the international market during the period from May-November, 2009 are as follows:

(A) Monthly Average Prices of Edible Oils in the Domestic Market

(Rs./Quintal)

Month	Name of the Edible Oil			
	Mustard Oil	Groundnut Oil	Sunflower Oil	RBD Palmoiein
May, 2009	4821	5773	4379	4314
June, 2009	4626	5742	4231	3933
July, 2009	4723	6069	4123	3606
August, 2009	5144	6383	4307	3959
September, 2009	4980	6244	4095	3724
October, 2009	5018	6330	4063	3541
November, 2009	5370	6831	4451	3654

Source: Solvent Extractor's Association of India.

(B) Monthly Average Prices of Edible Oils in the International Market

F.O.B (US$/Ton)

Month	Name of the Edible Oil	
	Crude Palm Oil	Soyabean Oil
May, 2009	766	816
June, 2009	690	810
July, 2009	595	727
August, 2009	682	784
September, 2009	644	738
October, 2009	641	787
November, 2009	672	831

Source: Solvent Extractor's Association of India.

New variety of rice

3299. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any rice variety in the country that does not need cooking but only soaking;